II FLT -6

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1514)

Name of Candidate	MAYANK MUDGIL		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	883478
Center	Online	Date	27 Dec 21

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
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9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Highlighting the changes introduced by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Amendment Act, 2021, analyse various issues with the amended Act. **(150 words) 10**

दिल्ली राष्ट्रीय राजधानी राज्यक्षेत्र शासन (GNCTD) संशोधन अधिनियम, 2021 द्वारा प्रारंभ किए गए परिवर्तनों को रेखांकित करते हुए, इस संशोधित अधिनियम से जुड़े विभिन्न मुद्दों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recently, GNCTD Act 2021 was introduced to regulate the affairs of Delhi.

Changes Introduced

1. "Government of Delhi" would refer to "Lt. Governor"
2. The legislature of Delhi shall not pass any law taking up newer responsibilities.
3. All executive decisions are needed to be brought before Lt. Governor.

Issues

1. Goes against Hon'ble Supreme Court's

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ruling that barring matters of Police, Public Order and land, the Government of Delhi (elected) is responsible for all matter.

2. Routing all decisions via Lt. Governor would paralyze the government, delaying execution of decisions.

3. legislature will not be able to function properly due to ambiguous provisions.

4. Reserving of laws for Presidential assent would hamper the execution.

Sufficient space for functioning of elected representatives must be given while balancing the needs of Central Government.

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2. Are there valid arguments for continuing with sedition law in 21st century democratic India? Discuss in light of the debate surrounding it.
(150 words) 10

क्या 21वीं सदी के लोकतांत्रिक भारत में राजद्रोह कानून को जारी रखने के लिए वैध तर्क विद्यमान हैं? इससे संबंधित वाद-विवाद के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

Sedition law in India is provisioned for in Section 124A of IPC. It is supported by laws including UAPA, NSA, etc.

Reason for its continuance

1. India faces several threats to its stability, both internal and external.
2. Stringent provisions are necessary in order to tackle the seditious threats.
3. They are necessary to control the public order & safety and give meaning to "reasonable restrictions" as outlined in Article 19(2).

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4. Recent examples such as hate speeches, threat of spread of ISIS in south India, Khalistan movement, extremism in Kashmir & Naxalism need to be fought tooth & nail.

Need to rethink its application

- Modern Liberal Democracies have discontinued their use Eg. Australia, etc.
- Use to curb dissent in the country
- Recent data by MHA shows low conviction rate of ~10%
- Can be used to advance political gains & settle scores.

As pointed out by NSA Ajit Doval, use of these provisions are "absolutely necessary". However, ethical pre-judgements must be made for rightful application of laws.

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3. Identify the issues that have contributed to a decline in the performance of Parliamentary Standing Committees. How can these issues be addressed? **(150 words) 10**

उन मुद्दों की पहचान कीजिए जिन्होंने संसदीय स्थायी समितियों के प्रदर्शन में गिरावट में योगदान दिया है। इन मुद्दों का समाधान कैसे किया जा सकता है?

Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs), 24 in number, play the role of detailed evaluation of policies & budgets of related jurisdiction & ministries.

These help in extracting accountability of executive towards legislature.

Issues for decline in performance

- Low attendance of MPs and their inherent inability of competence
- Internal political feuds between MPs that goes against their spirit.
- Recent trend of not reffering bills for scrutiny by PSCs → leads to hasty passage of bills
- Less amount of tenure of 1year leads to inefficient overwatch
- Public Data Protection Bill not scrutinized till now

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Addressing these issues

1. Setting up of new & specialised PSCs to keep track of changing realities.
Eg. Standing Committee to scrutinize Constitutional Amendment Bills

2. Mandatory Scrutiny in terms of matters of national importance.
Eg. For the recent 3 farm laws.

3. Providing expert advice to aid the concerned MPs.

4. Ethical working by the members to sideline the political feuds.

5. Increasing the tenure of PSCs to enhance effectiveness.

PSCs give a forum to discuss issues in detail. Their efficient functioning is necessary to public welfare & upholding of democratic practices.

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4. Despite being a non-constitutional body, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has wielded immense decision-making power in India. Discuss the advantages and issues associated with it. **(150 words) 10**

एक गैर-संवैधानिक निकाय होने के बावजूद, प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) के पास भारत में निर्णय-निर्माण की व्यापक शक्ति है। इससे संबद्ध लाभों और मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Prime Minister's office (PMO) refers to the staff that aids the PM for efficient functioning. It is an executive office and has gained traction in various countries around the world.

Advantages

1. Efficient & quick decision making.
   → Issues such as delay which hijacking negotiations in 2002 could have been avoided.
2. Available of the best talent & officers at the disposal of highest real executive of the country
   → Best bureaucrats with experience
   → Top industrial & societal advisors.

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3. Acts as "nerve centre" of the government and ~~coo~~ coordinates between ministries for efficient functioning.

4. This way, overwatch of PM is thoroughly maintained.

Issues
- may lead to overcentralization
- may lead to bypassing of constitutional setup such as council of Ministers
- May lead to "Kitchen Cabinet" & influence of non-representatives of people
  Eg. During Indira Gandhi's government.
- Role of Cabinet Secretariat may be sidelined in some cases.

PMO is "reflection" of the personality of PM. Its efficiency must be used for the betterment of the nation.

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5. Discuss the role of data in governance in India. Also, state the various challenges in this regard and suggest remedial measures.

(150 words) 10

भारत में शासन में डेटा की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में विद्यमान विभिन्न चुनौतियों का उल्लेख कीजिए एवं उपचारात्मक उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

Data is termed as the "new gold" and its importance is much pronounced in effective policy making.

Role of Data in Governance

1. Helps in taking informed decisions as per ground realities.

Eg. CPI helping is steps to control inflation.

2. Results into more acceptable decisions in the polity and strengthens democracy

Eg. Role of socio-Economic NFHS data in executive decisions to combat hunger.

3. Helps in targeted delivery of policies & caters to the minorities & downtrodden sections of population.

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Challenges

- Use of public data for political gains in elections
- Data leak due to low security may compromise on Right to Privacy.
- May be misinterpreted leading to inefficient policies
- Huge investment needed for storage and analysis.

Remedial Measures

- Strengthening data governance structures by investing in cyber security
- Preventing misuse of data, especially personal data by authorities
- Investments & R&D in effective analytical tools. Eg. Supercomputers (Param Siddhi)

Pending Personal Data Protection Bill must be passed as soon as possible for effective data governance.

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6. With specific examples, elaborate upon the conditions that led to the emergence of a new civil society in urban India in the last few decades. Also, highlight its contribution towards effecting governance and policy changes. **(150 words) 10**

विशिष्ट उदाहरणों के साथ, उन परिस्थितियों का विस्तारपूर्वक वर्णन कीजिए जिनके कारण पिछले कुछ दशकों में शहरी भारत में एक नए नागरिक समाज का उदय हुआ है। साथ ही, शासन और नीतिगत परिवर्तनों को प्रभावित करने में इसके योगदान पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Owing to recent changes, society in urban areas of India now has multiple strata from different backgrounds including, Doctors, Engineers, Migrant Workers, Business-men, Slum dwellers, etc.

Conditions that led to emergence of new Civil Society in Urban India

1. Confluence of multiple cultures hitherto unseen. Eg. Delhi hosts people from all parts of the country.
2. Rapid urbanisation and increase in real income of the people.
3. Availability of information leading to awareness in people. Eg. All sections of society took part in India Against Corruption

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movement in 2011.

4. Decreasing caste, religion based barriers due to inter-mixing in jobs.

Contribution towards effecting governance & policy changes

1. 74th amendment 1993 brought direct citizen participation. Formation of wards led to people keeping track of development of public infra such as parks, schools, etc.
2. Formulation & Projection of public sentiment as seen during Nirbhaya case in 2012.
3. "Digital India" and its initiatives have led to better awareness among dissemination of information.
4. Most government offices are in urban areas. This leads to better citizen connect & response mechanism.

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7. The Gati Shakti mission has the potential to not only address the issue of infrastructure bottlenecks but also streamline the governance processes in the country. Elucidate. **(150 words) 10**

गति शक्ति मिशन में न केवल अवसंरचना संबंधी बाधाओं का समाधान करने की क्षमता है अपितु देश में शासन प्रक्रियाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करने की भी क्षमता विद्यमान है। स्पष्ट कीजिए।

Mission Gati Shakti aims to invest ₹1 lakh crore in infrastructure of India is short term. It aims to kickstart Indian economy & ensure sustainable growth.

Potential to address infrastructure bottlenecks

1. Rapid upgradation of infrastructure and spreading its benefits to Tier-II & III cities. Eg. DFCs joining various industrial centres.
2. Kickstart the financing of projects, which has been on the backburner post DHFL and IL&FS crises.
3. Subsequent infra creation would bring in best practices in the industry by involving private sector.

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Streamlining of Governance Processes

1. Equitable distribution of resources would allow employment creation and jump in labour force participation.
2. Confluence with schemes such as National Infrastructure Pipeline would also attract investments from other sources including foreign funds.
3. Availability of data would ensure better citizen overwatch & ensure accountability.

World Bank says 1% increase in stock of infra raised the GDP by ~1%. Mission Gatishakti has the potential to help India achieve goal of $1Tn Economy.

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8. Giving an account of the issues faced by workers in the informal sector, discuss whether the recently launched e-Shram portal can help in addressing them. **(150 words) 10**

अनौपचारिक क्षेत्रक में श्रमिकों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली समस्याओं का विवरण देते हुए चर्चा कीजिए कि क्या हाल ही में प्रारंभ ई-श्रम पोर्टल उनका समाधान करने में सहायता कर सकता है।

More than 90% of labour force works in the informal sector in India. This also leads to loss of total factor productivity of labour.

Issues faced by workers in informal sector

1. lack of social security measures such as insurance, retrenchment benefit.
2. lack of stable income and possibility of quick loss of job, as the rules do not apply to them (Eg. labour Codes)
   → This was seen recently in issues faced by migrant workers in COVID-19.
3. Lack of benefits to dependent family including schooling for children, etc.

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e-SHRAM Portal

1. Recently launched to register informal workers. Has registered ~14 crore workers so far.

2. Bridge the gap between job givers & job seekers by matching the skill set required. This will help them get the formal jobs.

3. Various skill development programs (Eg. PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana), social security measures such as insurance can be given in a targeted way.

Proper formalization of labour holds the key for India to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals & improve development indicators.

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9. Clarifying the significance of the recent developments on the issue of global minimum tax, discuss its prospects and challenges for India.
(150 words) 10

वैश्विक न्यूनतम कर के मुद्दे के संदर्भ में हालिया घटनाक्रमों के महत्व को स्पष्ट करते हुए, भारत के लिए इसकी संभावनाओं और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

It is estimated that India loses ~10 Bn USD in an year due to Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements.

Global Minimum Tax is an OECD led initiative that aims to recommend a minimum tax applicable to all jurisdictions.

Significance

1. ~130 countries have subscribed to the idea.
2. It aims to tackle the issue of avoidance of taxation by MNCs.
   Eg. Recent investment in India by Tesla was routed through Netherlands.

Prospects

1. would tackle the saving of taxes

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by big corporates using safe Tax Havens.

2. Any difference in taxes can be "topped up" by home jurisdiction.

Eg. On account of 15% minimum tax, India can put a tax of 10% on profits if the MNCs pays 5% in a tax haven.

3. Help in augmenting funds for jurisdictions where the profits were made.

Challenges

1. Income sources of smaller countries surviving of these provisions may be hampered. Eg. Mauritius
→ might have diplomatic ramifications.

2. Issue of "who can impose how much tax" in which jurisdiction needs to be resolved.

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10. Announcement of the AUKUS security pact heralds a new era of global geo-politics. Comment. Also, discuss how it may affect India's interests. **(150 words) 10**

AUKUS सुरक्षा समझौते की घोषणा ने वैश्विक भू-राजनीति के एक नए युग की शुरुआत की है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। साथ ही, चर्चा कीजिए कि यह भारत के हितों को कैसे प्रभावित कर सकता है।

AUKUS is collective of Australia, UK and USA aimed to secure an equitable world order and ensure a "free & open" Indo-Pacific region.

Evolving Geo-politics

1. Aims to counter rising influence of China, which is becoming a strategic rival of these countries.
   Eg. US-China Trade War, imposing duties on Australian wines by China.
2. A security pact would aim at deterrence on China's bully behaviour in the region of South China sea.
3. Aims to project democratic values in

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the world order by exposing China's violation of human rights.

Impact on India's Interests

1. AUKUS pact blindsided France, which is a strategic partner of India.
2. May sideline QUAD initiative of which India is a part. India views QUAD as an important part to counter Chinese influence.
3. Any military skirmish would have a fallout in the region.

However, AUKUS brings potential for India to work with like minded countries on the challenges ahead. It can be used diplomatically to advance India's interests, as seen recently when India-France struck submarine deal.

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11. Effective devolution of finances is an important requirement for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to fulfill their objectives. Discuss while also elaborating on the reasons behind lack of financial resources for PRIs in India. **(250 words) 15**

पंचायती राज संस्थाओं (PRI) को अपने उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए वित्त का प्रभावी हस्तांतरण एक महत्वपूर्ण अनिवार्यता है। भारत में PRIs के लिए वित्तीय संसाधनों की कमी हेतु उत्तरदायी कारणों का वर्णन करते हुए चर्चा कीजिए।

73rd amendment 1993 provided Panchayati Raj Institutions as 3rd tier of government. XI th schedule has 29 items but PRIs remain under-funded, under-staffed and under-utilized.

Need for effective devolution

1. Article 243I provides for State finance commission allowing for distribution of funds between State and PRIs.
2. PRIs are responsible for important issues such as health, education, agriculture, etc. that require huge

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funds.

3. Any democratic decentralisation requires decentralization of finances as well for effective governance.

4. In order to realize the aim of "Self Sufficient Villages", investments are required & power needs to be put in hands of people.

Reasons behind lack of financial resources

1. Article 243H : allows for imposition of taxes, tolls, duties by PRIs. This power is seldom used due to local reasons.
→ Undermines the potential of PRIs.

2. Funds from Central & State Pool of resources are not devolved in

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sufficient quantity.

3. Most of the finances are in form of "tied funds" to the schemes that do not allow discretion at the hands of PRIs.

4. Overburdening of needs on State Govt. is also a reason as they remain under-funded themselves. Overcentralisation of responsibilities lead to less financial devolution.

5. lack of availability of PRIs to raise finances from the market.

Recommendations of Mani Shankar Aiyyar Committee must be looked into to unlock the financial potential of PRIs.

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12. Judicial activism is a necessary tool to guard against "legislative adventurism and executive excesses". Critically discuss in the context of the doctrine of separation of powers as provided in the Constitution of India.

(250 words) 15

"विधायी जोखिम और कार्यकारी अतिक्रमण" से रक्षा के लिए न्यायिक सक्रियता एक आवश्यक उपकरण है। भारत के संविधान में यथा प्रदत्त शक्तियों के पृथक्करण के सिद्धांत के संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Judicial Activism refers to proactive role of Judiciary traversing in the executive & legislative sphere. Constitution of India provides doctrine of separation of Powers (SOP) where each organ is provided exclusive space to perform.

Necessity of Judicial Activism

1. Arbitrary decisions taken by the other two organs require Judiciary to step in to reverse them.

Eg. Nullifying extra-constitutional provisions of 97th amendment regarding cooperatives.

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2. Safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens from executive excesses.
→ This comes from Article 32/226 (writs)
→ Eg. Habeas Corpus writ safeguarding against arbitrary detention.

3. To fill the legal vacuum where legislative & executive do not work due to political considerations.
Eg. 7 point reforms for Police, Vishakha guidelines on Sexual Harassment, etc.

Judicial Overreach → when Judiciary traverses in role of other organs without need

1. leads to limitations on other two organs
Eg. Banning of firecrackers during Diwali required executive sanction for implementation.

2. Judiciary may not be well-equipped

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to take executive decisions, which require administrative prudence.

Eg. Banning of alcohol shops in 500 m radius of Highways was flouted readily.

3. Judiciary is not accountable to public directly and must not take ~~[illegible]~~ decisions arbitrarily. Eg. Nullifying NJAC 2014 at the behest of Judicial Independence.

CJI NV Ramana has forewarned caution to check Judicial Activism & Overreach. A healthy balance needs to be maintained for preserving the mighty role of Judiciary

Balance of the two doctrines.

Checks & Balances	Separation of Power

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13. The electoral bond scheme is part of what appears to be a growing trend away from transparency and accountability in electoral funding. Critically analyse. **(250 words) 15**

चुनावी बॉण्ड योजना उस बढ़ती हुई प्रवृत्ति का भाग है जो चुनावी फंडिंग में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही से दूर जाने की प्रतीत होती है। समालोचनात्मक विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Electoral bond Scheme was recently introduced to revolutionize the political funding of political parties.

Features
- available in 5 denominations of ₹1cr, ₹10 lakh, ₹1 lakh, ₹10,000 & ₹1,000.
- Can be issued by SBI's New Delhi branch only
- validity of 15 days from date of issue.

Hampering Transparency & Accountability

1. They may be used to fund political parties anonymously.
2. High incidence of ₹1 crore denominated bonds (~70%) in overall funding shows potential misuse.
3. Political Parties are needed to publish

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their balance sheets & sources of funds by Election Commission.

→ Electoral Bonds present a way to hide the donors.

→ May increase criminalisation of politics by legalising funding from criminal sources

~~Advantages and Significance~~

4. Recent removal of cap of 7.5% of profits to be used for electoral bonds may increase influence of corporates on parties.

Advantages and Significance

1. less use of money laundering & black money as funds are routed via banking system.
2. SBI (and hence authorities) can track

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incidence of illegal funds.

3. Anonymity of bond holders do not allow undue pressure of donor on political parties.

4. The funds are reported annually by SBI for overwatch.

Necessary changes need to be brought as recommended by Election Commission. Cap on corporate contribution needs to be restored. Thus transparency & accountability are important pillars of electoral system.

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14. The significance of the principle of subsidiarity was well reflected in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**

समनुषंगिता (सब्सिडियरिटी) के सिद्धांत का महत्व कोविड-19 महामारी के प्रबंधन में बेहतर रूप से परिलक्षित हुआ है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Principal of subsidiarity aims to guarantee independence to lower authority to take decisions to its own effect. It was evident recently during 2nd wave of COVID-19 in India.

- Localised lockdowns & restrictions were imposed
- Stockholding limits & de-controlling of prices left to states
- Procurement of relief material was done by states.

Significance

1. Allows for decentralised response to the pandemic once sufficient oversight was gained in COVID-19 management.

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Eg. localised night curfew timings in Delhi, Chandigarh, etc de-linking central control.

2. Catering to local needs as assessed at district level.

Eg. Allocation of vaccines, oxygen cylinder as per local needs helped in efficient management.

3. Decreased the burden on central Government which focused on other important issues such as development & procurement of vaccines.

4. Helped in efficient use of resources that were in dearth due to loss of economic activity.

Eg. Bed capacity of PHCs was upgraded in high impact areas alongwith hospitals.

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It came with its own sets of Challenges.

- Loss of economies of scale leading to expensive procurement of medical devices Eg. ventilators
- States were not well equipped to handle to onset of pandemic
  - Help of Central Teams was required.

Thus it allowed for a decentralised and bottom-up response to the pandemic. This was highlighted by the fact that bed capacity of hospitals was upgraded very quickly as compared to response during 1st wave of COVID-19.

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15. Social media has ushered in greater transparency and accountability in governance. But accountability through social media is no alternative to institutional accountability. Analyse. **(250 words) 15**

सोशल मीडिया ने शासन में अधिक पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की शुरुआत की है। लेकिन सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से जवाबदेही संस्थागत जवाबदेही का विकल्प नहीं है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Social Media has democratised the popular participation in governance and enhanced citizen overwatch.

Enhancing Transparency & Accountability

1. Quicker dissemination of information by the government (govt.) institutions. Eg. Info. regarding restrictions during COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Overwatch by public & public groups has increased. Eg. Mishandling of funds in riverfront development in UP and non-conformity with RTI invited a strong public response.

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3. Bridged the citizen- administrative gap for sensitization of administration.
Eg. Election Commission taking cognizance of hate speeches in election rallies.

*. However, Social Media is no alternative to institutional accountability:

1. There is an urgent need to strengthen the RTI system & clear the backlog.
Eg. Recent MHA data shows overuse of Section-8 of RTI Act 2005 in dismissing RTI applications.

2. The overstepping of powers of executive & legislature needs to be checked by Judicial Review. Eg. Aarey Metro shed case in Mumbai.

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3. Institutional Accountability requires a formal response that holds the institutions answerable for their actions. Eg. Writs under Article 32 prevent illegal detentions. Recent MHA data of low conviction rate under UPA (~2.2% cases led to conviction)

Thus a balance needs to be maintained between formal and informal channels such as social media. Use of IT tools in strengthening new age methods such as social Audits, Citizen's Charter must pave the way forward.

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16. Although the State has the right incentives and intentions to deliver public services efficiently, its capacity to do so is questionable. Critically discuss in the context of India. **(250 words) 15**

यद्यपि राज्य के पास सार्वजनिक सेवाओं के कुशलतापूर्वक वितरण हेतु उचित प्रोत्साहन और उद्देश्य विद्यमान हैं, तथापि ऐसा करने की उसकी क्षमता संदिग्ध है। भारत के संदर्भ में समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Social Contract theory envisages a state that provides welfare measures in an effective manner. However, this is challenged by its capacity in equitable distribution of resources.

Role of State in Public service Delivery

1- To maintain a just order in the society and support the downtrodden sections. Eg. Under NFSA 2013, India provides foodgrains to 2/3rd of population.

2. To achieve the aim of "welfare state" as enshrined in ideals of

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constitution.

3. Incentives: to support "Right to Dignified Life" of people, maintain peace & stability in the country, popular support of people.

4. Intentions: made clear by imbibing on socialistic principles, decrease the inequalities, hunger, incidence of diseases, etc.

Questionable Capacity

1. India is 5th largest economy in the world. But it stands even below than Bangladesh in Per-Capita GDP.
→ Population of ~130 cr requires huge resources in absolute terms.

2. The incidence of corruption, red-tapism

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and hurdles cause ~~bea~~ bureaucratic inefficiencies.

3. Capacity of the people is hence not developed as they remain dependent in perpetuity.

IMF recommends effective participation of Private sector and its funds to deliver public goods. For example, roads can be made under PPP Projects. This shall allow lessening of burden on public exchequer & citizen centric public service delivery.

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17. The problem of hunger in India does not lie in food production but various other underlying issues. Discuss in the wake of decline in India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index, 2021. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में हंगर (भूखमरी) की समस्या खाद्य उत्पादन में नहीं बल्कि अन्य कई अंतर्निहित मुद्दों के कारण है। ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स, 2021 में भारत की रैंकिंग में गिरावट के आलोक में चर्चा कीजिए।

India ranked 101st/116 countries in Global Hunger Index (2021). In the same year, India produced ~290 MT of foodgrains as against requirement of ~230 MT.

India also is featured in Top 5 agricultural producers of many commodities in the world. Yet, as per GHI 2021,

Child wastage	Child stunting	Under-weight
~21%	~38%	~35%

Reasons for this Paradox

1. Inequalities in the population leading to less purchasing power for basic amenities such as food.

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2. "Hidden Hunger" of nutrients due to over-dependence of wheat & rice in the dietary habits.

3. Inefficiencies in Public Distribution System

→ Diversion of quality foodgrains to retail shops.

→ Until recently, not available in decentralised way. Highlighted during migrant crisis of COVID-19 pandemic.

→ "One Nation One Ration Card" scheme aims to solve this.

4. Centralised procurement leads to wastage of foodgrains (~40% of food produced in India is wasted as per UNDP).

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Decentralised availability of foodgrains

Strengthening of Mid Day Meal Scheme to include more pulses based diet ← Steps taken to address Hunger → Bio-fortification of rice with vitamins & minerals

↓

Eat Right Movement by FSSAI

India has a long way to go to address the forward & backward linkages issue in its supply chain to reduce food wastage. Effective steps must be taken to reduce the incidence of hunger & improve India's rank.

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18. Democratization of primary healthcare is indispensable for fulfilling the objectives of equitable and comprehensive care in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

भारत में समान और व्यापक देखभाल के उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य देखभाल का लोकतंत्रीकरण अपरिहार्य है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Primary Health Care (PHC) is the first level of contact for people, communities, family with the national health system.

Importance of Democratization of PHC

1. To enable a decentralised access even in remote areas. This will ensure rural & tribal areas get equitable access.

2. To decrease the burden of communicable & non-communicable diseases leading to overburdening of secondary & tertiary system of healthcare.

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3. To ensure increase in overall health of population and decrease the overall time in accessing treatment.

4. Cheaper access to medicines & treatment to poor population, that generally remain aloof from healthcare system.

Following steps can be taken

1. Increasing the doctor : patient ratio from current 1:1456 to WHO recommended 1:1000. Necessary rural postings of doctors will also help.

2. Integration of AYUSH systems in PHC setup.

3. 2nd ARC recommends training of staff in a decentralised manner. Enhanced control of local Government

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Institutions (Eg. Panchayats) would allow localised development.

4. Use of IT infra in PHC system such as tele-doctors, tele-medicine, etc.

→ National Digital Health Mission also envisages this.

COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the role of PHC in ensuring comprehensive & equitable response for public welfare. Their capacity must be enhanced for improving health of the population.

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19. In the context of the evolving discourse on the Indo-Pacific, analyse the factors driving the global shift towards the region. Also, identify India's interests and challenges in this regard. **(250 words) 15**

हिंद-प्रशांत (इंडो-पसिफिक) पर विकसित हो रहे संवाद के संदर्भ में, इस क्षेत्र की ओर वैश्विक झुकाव को प्रेरित करने वाले कारकों का विश्लेषण कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संबंध में भारत के हितों और चुनौतियों की भी पहचान कीजिए।

Hon'ble PM's Shangri-la speech brought India to the world stage in Indo-Pacific arena. The area hosts more than 50% of world population, handles more than 70% of world trade and holds sizable energy reserves.

Factors for global shift towards the region

I. Phenomenal Rise of China

1. Became world's #1 economy in 2021
2. World's 2nd largest military
3. ~13% share in world trade
4. Called "factory of the world"

II. Expansionist Policies of China

5. "9 dash line" threatening

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territorial disputes in South China Sea.

6. Dispute over Senkaku Islands with Japan

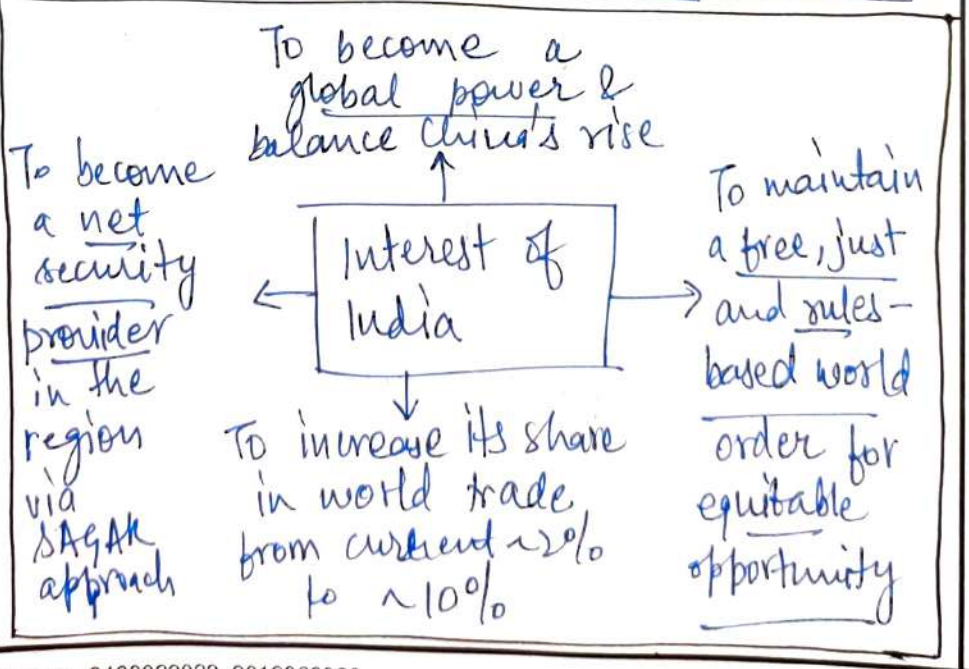
7. "String of Pearls" theory to build Naval Stations in the region.

8. "Flexing of Muscles" by China. Eg. Ladakh border skirmishes in 2020.

III. Miscellaneous reasons

9. Shift of focus from Middle East

10. Multiple Choke Points of trade such as Malacca Strait, Java Strait, etc.



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Challenges for India

- Possibility of Military Conflicts with China → Two front war with Pakistan & China
- US-China Trade war, US-Russia relations and other diplomatic hurdles leading to India choosing sides (Eg. QUAD initiative)
- Threat to its "regional leader" position. Eg. BRI of China
- Gaps in economy of China & India and military power → India won't be able to sustain a prolonged war

India needs to work with like minded countries and enhance its domestic capabilities (both military & economic) to maintain a peaceful Indo-Pacific Region. A just & free world order will be in everyone's interest.

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20. India's Afghanistan policy must be based on a clear-eyed understanding of important strategic goals in the region amidst the current regional and global strategic environment. Elaborate. **(250 words) 15**

भारत की अफगानिस्तान नीति वर्तमान क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक रणनीतिक परिवेश के बीच इस क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण रणनीतिक लक्ष्यों की स्पष्ट समझ पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए।

The 21st century Great Game in Afghanistan has geo-political ramifications for India due to its geographical, cultural and economical proximity.

Current Regional + Global Strategic Environment

- Taliban 2.0 taking power in Afghanistan
- Pakistan's interest to destabilize the region
- China's aim to extract resources
- support to terror activities & human rights violations.

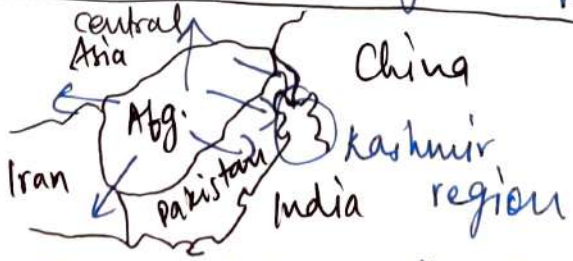

fig. Threat of "export" of terror.

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Strategic Goals of India

1. To maintain peace and stability in the region. NSA Ajit Doval highlighted possibility of terror fallout in Kashmir region.

2. Prevent incidence of money laundering and terror funding. Legitimacy of "Haqqani Network" may cause regional instability.

3. Spead of drugs from "Golden Crescent" area must be prevented.
   → Recently caught opium in Gujarat Port highlights this issue.

4. Safeguarding of India's assets in Afghanistan such as Zaranj Delaram Hiway, Salma Dam, etc.

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India's Afghanistan Policy must thus be placed on strategic & democratic principles.

1. India should work with like-minded countries on different forums such as UNSC, SCO, etc.
2. A backchannel communication with Taliban is necessary to clearly convey India's needs of preventing terrorism.

India maintains that any process should be "Afghan led, Afghan owned & Afghan controlled" for peaceful resolution. Stability of Afghanistan is in interest of stability of region including India.

Test : 1862

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कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

Name: Mayank Mudgil

UPSC

ID: 883478

Date: 05 Jan 22

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Q.1 Jyotiba Phule was not only a key social reformer but also a patron of literary works. Discuss.

Jyotiba Phule was a prominent social Reformer ~~that~~ who worked for depressed castes and emancipation of women.

Social Work

1) Fought against caste discrimination
2) Challenged the societal setup and preached for equality & liberty.
3) Worked for women's rights
→ Opened a shelter for widows in Pune alongwith wife Savitribai Phule.

This was also complimented by his patronage to the literary works:

1) Gulamgiri aimed to highlight the ostracization inflicted on the depressed classes.

2) Sarvajanik Satyadharma preached for the ideals of social equality and importance of education for upliftment of depressed classes.

He established "Satyashodhak Samaj" or "Truth Seekers Society" to give an institutional push to his societal reforms.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Q2 Cave paintings in India have a long tradition with both religious as well as secular attributes. Elucidate.

Cave paintings depict the historical art of Indian society and are an important source to understand ancient & medeival art setup.

Religious Attributes

1) Depict the prevailing religious idelogies and spread the ideas to the travellers / monks.

2) Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad have Jataka Stories in Painting forms.

Eg. ① Bhumisparsha Mudra of Buddha in front of Mara Army.

② Boddhisatva Padmapani in Cave 1.

amBitz

3) Ellora Caves, Maharashtra depict religious themes of Buddhism, Jainism & Hinduism, giving a secular character as well.

Secular Attributes

4) various Neolithic paintings depict hunting & gathering, group dances, etc.

5) Bhimbetka Caves in MP are a storehouse for early human paintings involving stick figures (petroglyphs), sexual union / worship, etc.

Thus, cave paintings in India display a wide range of variety and hold the key to boost tourism sector in India.

amBitz

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए - Candidates must not write on this margin

Q3 The Swadeshi movement started as an anti-partition movement, but became a multi faceted mass movement after 1905. Elaborate

The ~~announ~~ partition of Bengal was announced by Lord Curzon in 1903. This sparked the reactionary element in the population, giving rise to the "Swadeshi Movement" in Bengal.

Anti- Partition Character

- Against the divide & rule policy
- Public meetings were held, songs were sung
- "Rakhi" campaigns were organised.

In 1905 Banaras session under G.K. Gokhale, the Swadeshi movement became multi-faceted

once the Extremists came to centre stage.

[Multifaceted character]

1) Boycott of foreign cloth, liquor shops was done

2) "Swadeshi" industries were setup to promote Indian products.
Eg. Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company

3) Schools and Universities were setup to educate children. ~~and~~
Eg. Bengal National College and set up of National Council of Educator

4) Indian Society of Oriental Art was set up in 1907. Nandalal Bose got the first scholarship.

This gave the further rise to nationalistic feeling in masses, only to be used further by Gandhiji in freedom struggle.

amBitz

Q4 Although the National Emergency of 1975 was a temporary blip in independent India's history, it emboldened the spirit and resistance of our democracy. Discuss.

The Internal Emergency (1975-77) saw a despotic character in Indian democracy.

Strain in History

- Press censorship was done at large scale.
- Constitutional character was modified → "Advise" of CoM was made final for President
- Political dissent was repressed, activists were jailed
- Forceful family planning surgeries were done

However, it only emboldened the democratic spirit of our country, as discussed:

1) 42nd & 44th Amendment Acts brought

in some positive provisions such as word "secular" in Preamble, Provision for Cooperative societies.

2) Basic structure Doctrine came into being giving constitutionalism its true meaning.

3) The arbitrary "Internal Disturbance" was replaced with "Armed Rebellion" in Article 352.

4) Enhanced check by legislature and Judiciary evolved.

Such was the backlash that it deters the future leaders wary of arbitrary & despotic decisions. It only gave way for strengthening of democratic features.

(Please do not write anything exept the question number in this space)
कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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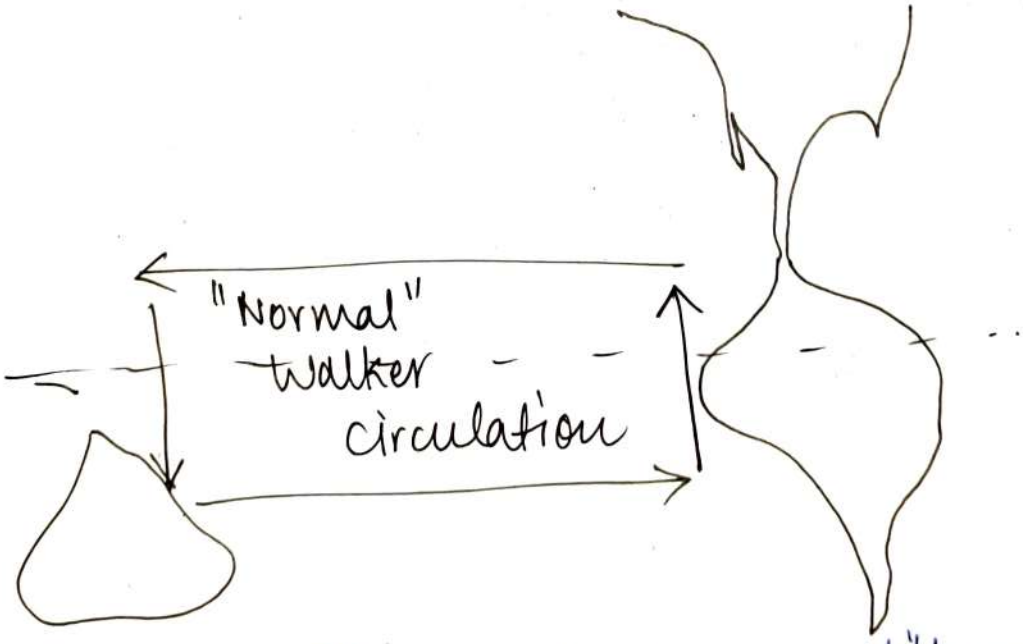
Q5 Examine the relationship between the walker Circulation and the Indian Monsoon.

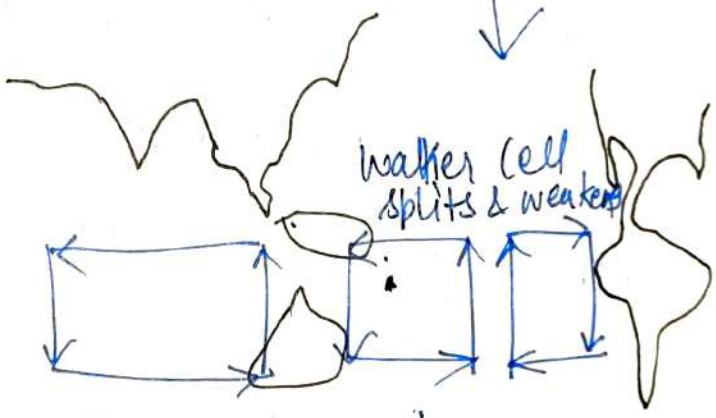
~~Walker Circulation is a system of rain giving clouds between Western Indian Ocean and~~ Walker Circulation is a model of atmospheric air flow in the tropical region of Pacific Ocean



This creates pressure difference and gives rise to the monsoon winds that bring rain to Indian subcontinent.

The Walker cell, when strengthens, gives rise to La-Nina conditions and gives excess rainfall during Indian Monsoon.

El-Nino Condition



This leads to weakening of the pressure gradient, thereby weakening the southwest Monsoon winds.

This causes drought like conditions due to reduced rainfall.

Indian Monsoon & its variation have direct impact on Indian Economy. Study of Walker Circulation is thus important from Indian Monsoon's perspective

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कृप्या इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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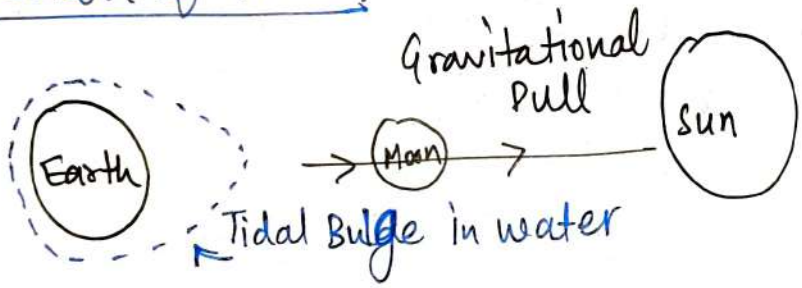
Q6 Identifying the factors responsible for formation of tides, discuss their geographic and economic significance.

Tides are alternate rise and fall of water level owing to the gravitational influence of moon & sun.

Formation of Tides

I.



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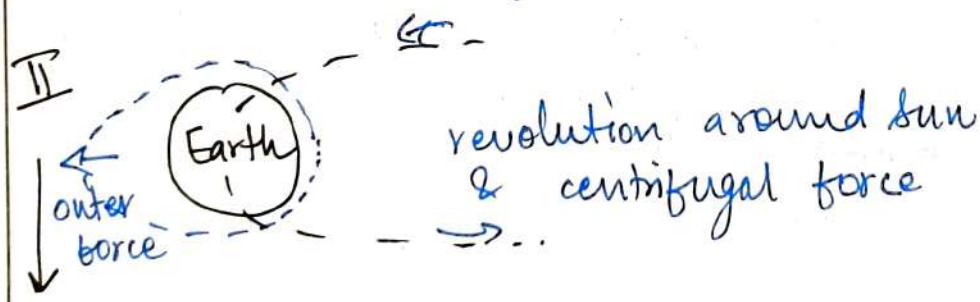

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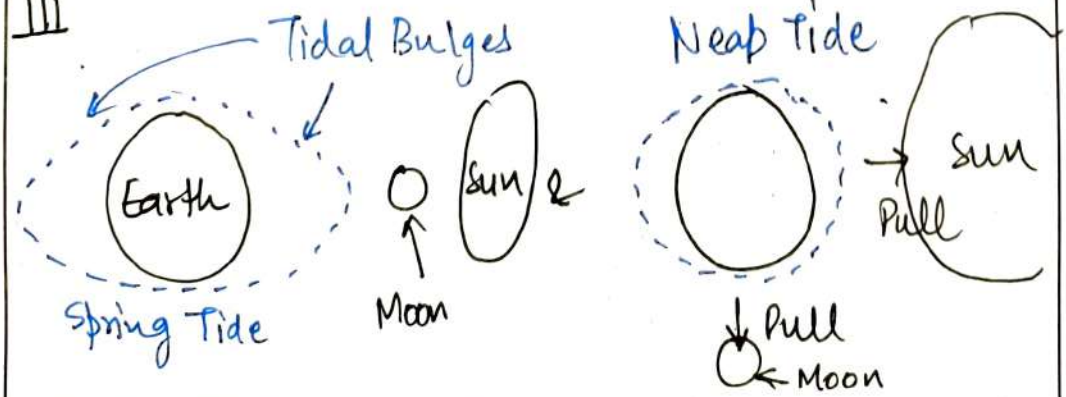

Geographical significance

1) Creation of High Tide and low Tide levels leading to formation of corals near the coast
2) Gives impetus to growth of Mangrove forest
3) Exposes the Continental Shelf and formation of sand at beaches

Economic Importance

1) Aids development of Natural Ports & harbours, facilitates movement of ships
2) Provides natural help to fishermen communities and boost to fishery sector
3) Various minerals (such a salt) can be extracted via action of tides.

Tides are thus an important natural phenomena. They hold great Tidal Energy that can help decarbonize the energy sector.

Q-1 What are Rossby waves? Discuss the role played by them in shaping the climate of the earth.

Rossby waves are large scale planetary waves that occur due to Earth's rotation, temperature & pressure variations.

These are of two types:

Atmospheric
↓
Cause the movement like jet streams in upper atmosphere.

Oceanic
↓
Large scale movement of water in westward direction

Shaping the Climate of Earth

I) Atmospheric Rossby Waves

1) lead to shift in temperature and pressure ~~graditen~~ gradients. This also

leads to heat transfer

2) The cold waves in Canada, North American region is due to Rossby waves that can strengthen during winter season.

II. Oceanic Rossby waves

3) lead to large scale movement of water in Pacific & Atlantic Oceans.

4) Causes regulation of oceanic temperature.

5) Possible relation with El-Nino & La-Nina conditions affecting the Monsoonal winds.

More research in Rossby waves & their behaviour would lead to better understanding of Earth's climatic phenomena.

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Q 8 One of the resons for increased global interest in Afghanistan is its endowment with key natural resources. Discuss.

The 21st century "Great Game" in Afghanistan has seen high global interest in the country.

China was quick to recognize Taliban 2.0 regime

India is seeking improvement in ties

Russia is also cooperating with the regimes, even after being a natural foe.

Much of it has to do with the fact that it is blessed with Natural Resources:

1) Reserves of Lithium in the Northern Region.
→ important to make Li-ion batteries
→ Crucial for EV technology in automobile sector

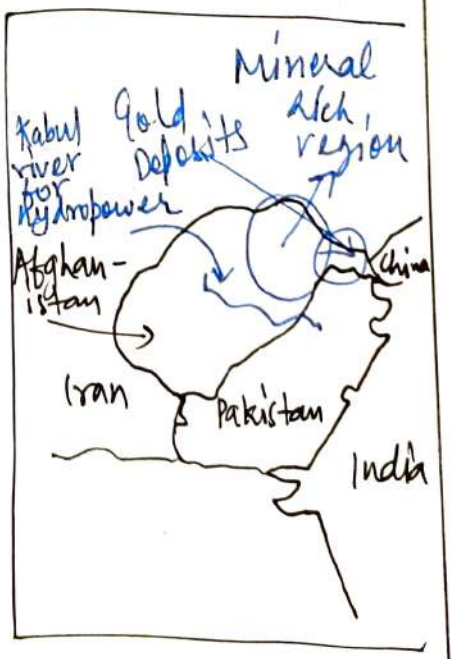
2) Gold Deposits in the region near Wakhan corridor and Pamir Knot.

3) Rare-Earth Minerals including lanthanides that form the backbone of electronic & modern industries.

4) Coal and Iron Ore which is important to give impetus to industries.

5) Uranium deposits are also speculated that are important for Nuclear Energy & weapons.

Afghanistan thus holds geo-political importance for others to take advantage of. Such resources must first be used for benefit of people of Afghanistan.



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Q.9 The traditional structure of the caste system has witnessed paradoxical changes over the last few decades in India. Comment.

Caste System in India is a long drawn problem and is constantly taking newer forms of manifestation.

Traditional structure →
- Discrimination based on birth & occupation
- Education was openly denied
- Menial Jobs were exclusively reserved for depressed classes.
- Explicitly practiced by all sections

However, it has witnessed paradoxical changes over last few decades, as discussed:

1) Constitution & law ended the discrimination. It was visualised that caste would slowly be annihilated.

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→ However, caste system has slowly become "invisible" in terms that it is still practised in many forms.
Eg. Resistance to Inter-Caste marriages.

2) Reservation which was earlier provided for giving social upliftment; now has "internalised" the caste identity. Eg. Certain sections are protesting to be included in OBC sections

3) Government Offices & Educational systems are witnessing "grouping" of staff/students based on caste groups.
Eg. Hostels made specifically for Dalit students by private trusts.

As visualised by Dr. BR Ambedkar, Caste must outrightly be annihilated. Then only, shall the Indian society realise the ideals of liberty, equality & fraternity.

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Q10 Economic empowerment of women is the key to ensure their social empowerment. Discuss in the context of India.

The changing nature of Indian setup is witnessing a correlation between economic & social circumstances. This holds the key to work for women empowerment.

Economic & social conditions of women

- Glass Ceiling at Jobs not equating wages for equal work
- Low labour force participation rate (18.9% in 2020)
- Patriarchal setup giving rise to inequalities
- Unequal Coparcener rights in reality.

Economic Empowerment → social Empowerment

1) Increase in wages and participation in labour force would imply financial

independence. This would raise the social status of women at home, family, society, etc.

2) Impetus of SHG movement has positive impact on real income of women. Eg. "Lijjat Papad" engages ~ 15,000 home-makers to raise their household income.

3) Productive use of women's human capital and skill would lead to a significant shift in work culture. This would lead to gender-sensitization of the whole society.

Recent entrepreneurial schemes of Government focusing on women (Eg. MUDRA Yojana) have the potential to improve social status of women.

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Q11 India has the highest number of endangered in the world as per the UNESCO. In the context, discuss the factors they have endangered ~~nat~~ native languages in India and highlight the steps taken to conserve and protect these languages.

Native language are those languages that are spoken in distinctive cultures owing to different regions. As per UNESCO, various Indian languages such as Bodo, Santhali, and remote tribal languages are severly endangered.

Factors for endangering Native languages

1) Urbanisation & mass movement of people looking for jobs & livelihood.
→ Needs common language, thereby

sidelining various mother tongues in successive generations

2) Use of English as widely accepted language.

→ Education is not available in vernacular level, lack of study material.

→ Offices push for use of English.

3) Globalisation & Cosmopolitanism leads to decreased use of native languages.

4) Less focus by the Government is also a contributing factor.

Steps taken to conserve them

1) Constitutional Provisions in Article 29, 30 provide rights to preserve language in linguistic minorities.

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2) 22 languages are put in 8th schedule that recieve governmental recognition at official level.

3) Setting up of Centre of Excellence in Universities to study & preserve various languages.

4) New Education Policy 2020 talks about education in vernacular language at primary level.

It is said that in India, mother tongue changes after every 50 kms. Such a diversity must be protected to safeguard the cultural heritage of India.

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Q. 12 The policy of 'Subsidiary Alliance' helped in establishing British control over internal affairs of Indian states without incurring any direct imperial liability. Discuss.

Subsidiary Alliance was part of British conquest policy in late 18th century. Hyderabad was the first state to go in subsidiary Alliance.

Features

1. Stationing of British troops : in the state.

→ Expenses were to be paid by the state exchequer

→ Failure of payment of expenses

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would lead to chipping away of territory.

2. Interference in the domestic / internal matters was thus legitimized.
Eg. Use of Hyderabad's forces in battle against Mysore.

3. Foreign affairs and relations ~~were~~ with other provinces / kingdoms were now to be determined by British authority.

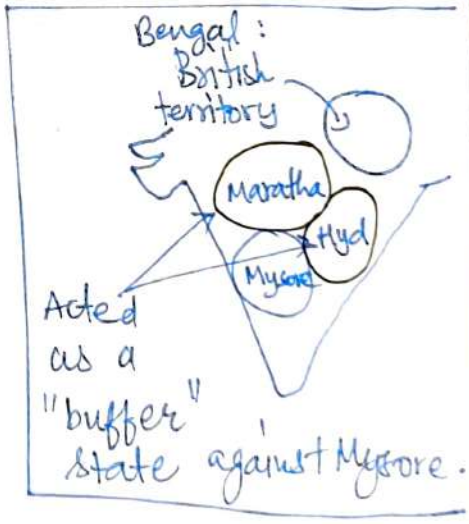
4. A permanent representative was stationed in the court of kingdoms to "advise" on internal matters.

All of this occured without any British expense leading to reduces liability and expenditure on war. This

was often utilized in territorial expansion. Eg. Placement of Mysore under Wodeyar dynasty after 4th Anglo Mysore War (1799).

This policy was closely knit with policy of Ring Fence to safeguard "British possessions".

This was also used to safeguard Indian territories from possible Napoleonic invasions by Wellesly.



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Q13 "Before 1857 the British were effectively working against the traditional grain of Indian society; afterwards they were working with it." Comment.

1857 Revolt was a watershed moment in British rule over India. It was seen as a culmination of various societal intervention by the British that alienated the masses.

Before 1857 → working against the traditional Indian society

- Theory of British supremacy in all spheres including military, education, jobs, etc.
- Widow Remarriage Act in 1856
- Abolition of Sati Pratha in 1857
- Curbed female infanticide in 1804

This gave a resentment among the masses whereby any top-down change was viewed as breaking the fabric of Indian Society. Post the 1857 Revolt, British took the policy of principled non-intervention in societal affairs and worked "with" the society. It is evident as follows:

1) Gradual changes were introduced:

→ Vernacular Education post application of Wood's Despatch.

→ Reforming of labour laws such as raising age in child labour.

2) Concessions were given to ease the tensions.

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→ Council ~~entry~~ was expanded via the 1861 Act.

→ Civil services were opened for Indians in real sense.

3) Long drawn process for reform was followed. Eg. Marriagable age was increased for men: 18 yrs & women: 14yrs via Child Marriage restraint Act 1929.

The policy of "divide and rule" came into play where societal groups were not allowed to unite to break the backbone of Indian resistance. However, Britishers and their intentions remained high handed & colonial.

Q. 4 Enumerating the revolutionary maxims propounded by Sun Yat-Sen, discuss the conditions that led to the revival of Chinese nationalism in the early 20th century.

In early 20th century, China was an "international colony" and was suffering colonialism in social, economic, political forms.

Sun-Yat-Sen was leader of Kuomintang Party and was one of early reformers of Chinese spirit.

Maxims of Sun-Yat-Sen

1) Need for democratic reforms in Chinese setup based on the western nations.

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2) Economic reforms based on Capitalism and industrial revolution. He propounded a need to move away from agriculture based economy.

3) Social reforms based on push for Chinese Nationalism and loyalty.

Conditions that led to revival of Chinese Nationalism:

1) Various graduates went to western countries and came back to China. They demanded for cultural and democratic reforms.

2) Resentment against the defeat in Opium Wars, Japanese Invasion of Manchuria, etc.

3) Missionary activities by priests of Christianity disturbed the social

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and Cultural Setup.

4) Economic Colonialism & exploitation of Chinese resources by Britain, France, etc. was creating disturbances.

→ All of this while Chinese people were suffering from poverty & hunger.

5) Flooding of foreign goods even when China was a "self sufficient" economy.

The subsequent civil war led to establishment of Chinese communist party and defeat of Kuomintang Party. These people then occupied Taiwan island establishing Democratic Republic of China, now known as Taiwan.

Q.15 Based on their geological age, present a brief account of the classification and distribution of coal ~~are~~ reserves in India. Also, discuss the ongoing stress in the coal sector ~~of~~ in India.

India holds sizable coal reserves (5th in world) and it is used to generate ~45% of power in the country

Classification & Distribution of Coal Reserves

I. Gondwana Coal

1) More than 90% of reserves hailing from Gondwana Period.
2) Present in Chottanagpur Plateau, Damodar Valley, Peninsular region.

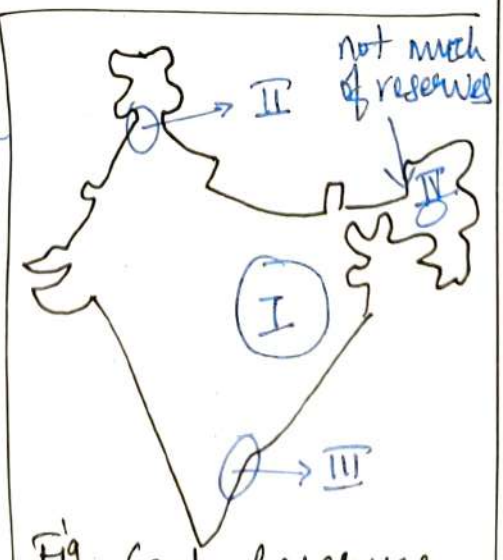


Fig. Coal Reserves

3) Bituminous Grade Coal having 80-90% of carbon content and low sulphur content.

II. Kashmir Region

1) Anthracite Grade coal with >90% carbon content and lowest sulphur content among all.

2) low reserves; near Pukhwara region.

III. Tamil Nadu Region in Kaveri Delta

1) Peat Grade Coal with ~40% of carbon & high sulphur content.

2) Has low Heat intensity among all and high moisture content.

Ongoing stress in India's coal sector

1. Reasons
- overexploited mines
- high transportation cost
- high corruption
- low calorific value

2. Such a situation has been created that India needs to import coal (eg. from Australia) for its power plants.

3. Supply Chain Issue: owing to transport inefficiencies, raising overall cost.

Eg. Recently, ~~way~~ many powerplants had ~48 hrs worth of coal left, creating panic.

4. Extraction costs are rising owing to protests and labour issues.

5. High carbon footprint is a major issue.

Recently, Government started Coal Block allocation based on bidding to realise better price discovery and bringing efficiency in the sector.

Q.16 In view of the importance of Blue economy to new India vision 2030, delineate the distribution of the key ocean minerals that can be help India realise its potential.

India recently launched "Deep Ocean Mission" to give boost to its Blue Economy (based on marine resources).

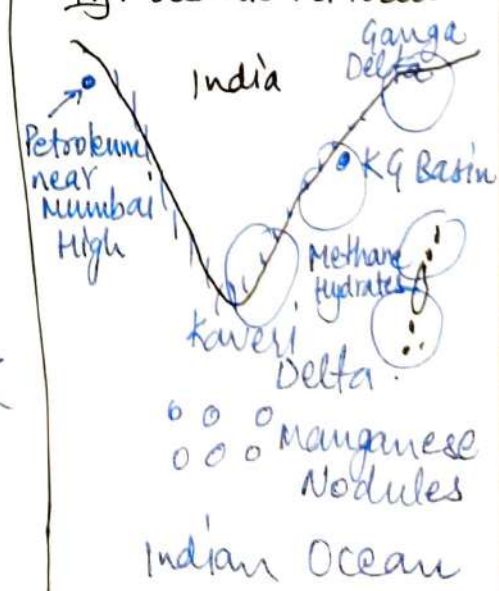
Distribution of Ocean Minerals

1) Manganese Nodules as present in Indian Ocean

2) Petroleum & Gas

→ Present in Mumbai High and Krishna-Godavari Basin

Fig. Oceanic Minerals.



→ Off the coast of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Methane Hydrades are also present with significant reserves.

3) Minerals like Cobalt, Nickel, Iron, etc. are also found near Odisha Coast and Bengal Coast.

4) Salt is ~~ma~~ widely extracted, especially in Gujarat & Maharashtra region.

5) Oceanic Bed also contained red-mud ooze that contains sulphur, iron, etc.

This highlights the importance of Blue Economy, cited a potential of $100 Billion by 2030.

1) It is important to boost industrial production in Peninsular region.

2) Extraction of Methane Hydrates would decrease dependence of India on imports and help in shifting to "Gas Based Economy"

3) Helpful for Coastal communities to earn their livelihood.

Blue Economy for India is an important stakeholder in realising the aim of achieving $5 Tn Economy.

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Q17 What is Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)? Discuss the reasons for recent decline in the (AMOC and its associated impact.

Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) was recently found to be declining in its intensity, threatening the climate systems in Europe and other areas.

AMOC: It is a system of Oceanic currents that regulates the temperature system in Atlantic region.

1) The Gulf Stream flows northward toward Europe and then sinks upon cooling down in Arctic region.

2) This cold current moves downward and southward due to pressure variation.

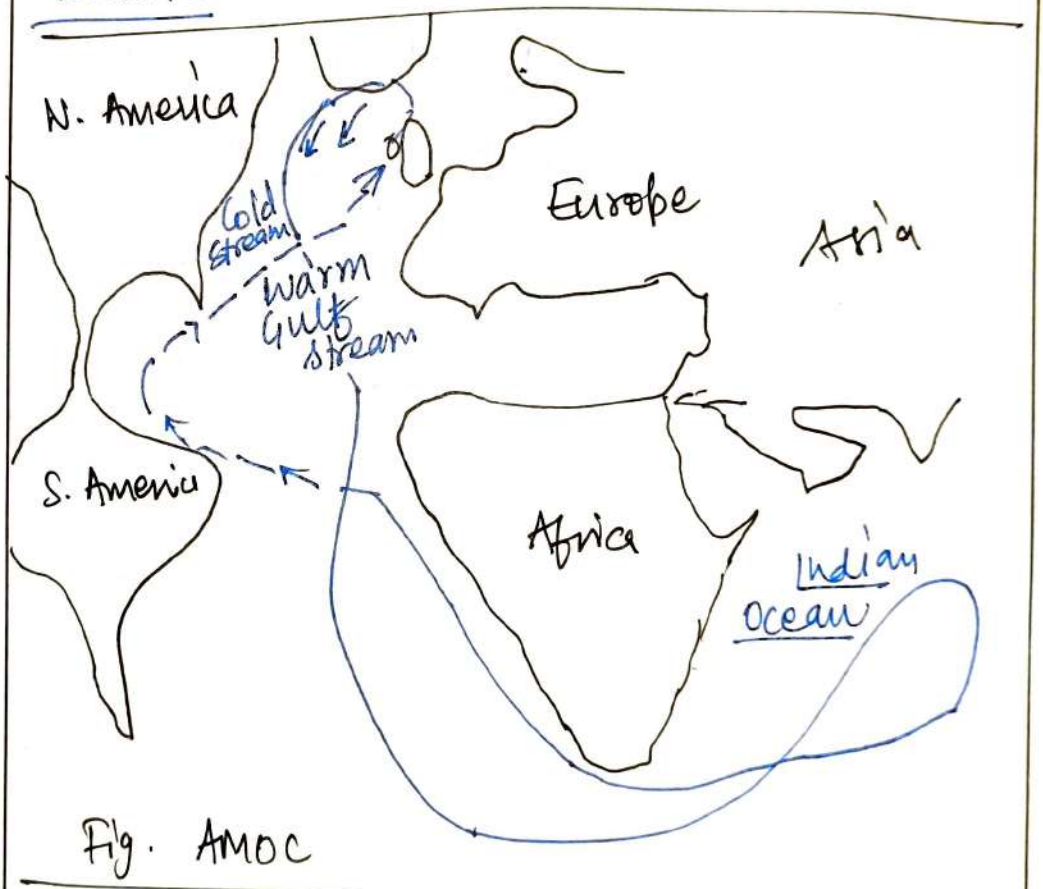

Fig. AMOC

Reasons for Decline :

1) Sea Surface Warming: leading to decrease in the temperature variation between Arctic region and Equatorial region.

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2) Climate Change / Global warming leading to melting of Actic Ice thereby supplying more water to the system and decreasing pressure different.

Impacts

1) Freezing Temperatures in Europe, UK leading to severe cold waves.

2) Decrease in rain in Europe, UK leading to agricultural failure and water scarcity.

3) Giving boost to Global warming as this regulates the global temperature balance.

It has been observed the warming of Indian Ocean would lead to strengthening of AMOC, providing it much required pressure variation.

Q. 18 Recent reports and national family health surveys have signalled a monumental shift in Indian demographics. Highlighting this shift, discuss the challenges that it will pose. Also, suggest remedial measures.

Recently conducted 5th round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has brought out some positive results and signified change in Indian society.

Monumental Shift in Indian Demographics

1. Total Fertility Rate has dropped to 2.0 (below the replacement level of 2.1)
→ signifies stabilization of population.

2) Decrease in the Child Wasting (from ~22% to ~19%), Child stunting (from ~38% to ~35%).

→ signifies reducing incidence of malnourishment.

3) Sex Ratio was found out to be 1020 (as against 991) which shows more number of women than men for first time in History.

Challenges

→ Data set is not wide enough to generalise at national level

→ The infant mortality rate still remains high at 35.
⇓
Shows bleak health infra situation

→ High Hunger levels as also showed by Global Hunger Index (India: 101/116)

→ Number of women marrying below 18 years is ~23%
↓
cause of concern.

Remedial Measures

1) Institutional push to healthcare infra. Increase GDP spending from current 1.3% to atleast 2-5%.

2) Effective implementation of laws regarding child Marriage. Recently increased marriagable age to 21 years for women is a welcome step.

3) Push to schemes such as "Beti Bachao Beti Padao". Goal of 100% institutional births must be achieved.

4) Improving nutrition

- One Nation One Ration Card Scheme
- Biofortification of foodgrains
- Increased use of fruits in diet.

Such steps would allow India to achieve related SDG aims 1, 2, 3, etc. of poverty, hunger, good health.

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Q19 Looking at all poverty from the rural prespective and applying rural solutions to urban conditions will not yield results. Discuss the statement in context of differences between urban and rural poverty in India.

Poverty is a multidimensional concept. World Bank defines it as lack of opportunity to meet the basic demands such as food, health, education, etc.

Urban Poverty	Rural Poverty
1. Owes to lack of resources such as minimum wages, → while basic amenities may be available in slums, their quality is quite menial.	1. Owes to lack of Pucca Houses, drinking water, basic sanitation facility, etc.
2. Owes to the industrial and service	2. Owing to pre-dominant agricultural nature of economy, poverty is also determined

based character of the economy.

3. Eg. lack of proper schooling, lack of secondary and tertiary care, underpayment of wages, etc.

in that context.

3. Eg. lack of skilled job opportunities, lack of primary healthcare, case of disguised unemployment

Owing to the difference in nature of poverty in urban & rural areas, relief measures and schemes must also be targeted differently.

Rural solutions for Poverty include :

1) MGNREGA based unskilled employment.

2) 100% electrification of rural areas meaning provision of wire in village and not to households.

→ this does not work for urban areas

Thus, several steps have

been taken by the Government in recent times :

1) Diassociation of several schemes in rural & urban components

- Jal Jeevan Mission (Rural & Urban)
- PM Awaas Yojana
- Swach Bharat Abhiyan

2) Urban areas specific schemes :

→ SVANIDHI scheme for street vendors.

→ PM Garibkalyan Anna Yojana has specific allocation for urban migrant labour.

Thus a delinking of approach is need of the hour. NITI Aayog estimates that 60% of population would live in Urban areas by 2050. This highlight need to address the problem of urban poverty differently.

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Q 20 Regional movements are often conservative in orientation, supported by traditional social classes and religious groups and oppose social change imposed by modernity. Critically discuss in the context of India.

Owing to the fast pace of globalisation and western model of development, regional identities of people are witnessing a significant change.

Social change imposed by modernity

- Use of English or Hindi language in imposing sense
- Change in social demographic by free movement of labour
- Change in family structure
- Change in Education curriculum → science based.

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This is giving impetus to regional movements having distinct characteristics:

I) Conservative Orientation:

1) Gender Parity in employment, women not being allowed to take up jobs.

2) In-ward looking family structures growing more autocratic.

II) Traditional Social Classism

3) Based on ethnic & linguistic classes Eg. Maharashtra for Marathis, ethnic discrimination in southern states, etc.

4) Reverse discrimination towards other groups. Eg. People from Bihar face ostracization in Maharashtra; People from North East being called "chinki" and other names.

III) 5) Interests of Religious Groups lead to ghettoization of areas based on religious lines.

Eg. Mumbra region having >90% Muslim population in outskirts of Mumbai.

6) Recently seen movement against meat shops, etc in Assam, Uttarakhand, Gujarat also point out this problem.

Indian Political & societal Setup has in-built safeguards that allow for regional & global assimilation. This flavour of Indian setup provides a secular and tolerant outlook to the societal values.

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Name: Mayank Mudgil

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ID: 883478

Date: 02 Jan 22

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Q.1. Agristack can serve as a foundation to build innovative agrifocused solutions, thus enabling creation of a better ecosystem for agricultur in India. Comment. Also, discuss the concerns associated with it.

Agristack refers to collection of technologies related to agricultural innovations at a single place. It is then made available to the industry for further research & innovation.

Benefits of Agristack

- Impetus to start ups to find innovative solutions Eg. e-markets for produce
- Increase the participation of industry to raise the income of farmers → by enhancing forward & backward linkages
- Create an ecosystem of R&D for enhancing farm mechanization

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Associated concerns

1. Benefits may not trickle down to the marginalised farmers and may be a reserve for the riches.

2. Adoption of newer technology by farmers may face concerns due to their illiteracy, poverty, etc.

3. IT infra may not be developed at farm gate level owing to digital divide.
→ may result into "high handed" nature of agricultural solutions.

Government recently launched Agristack to give push to digital infra in agriculture & give end-to-end services to farmers.

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Q.2. Despite the advantages of geothermal energy, it has not been adopted on a wide scale in India. Comment - Discuss.

Geothermal energy taps the heat energy inside the earth to generate electricity and power.

Advantages :

1. It is infinite in nature owing to heat energy from earth.

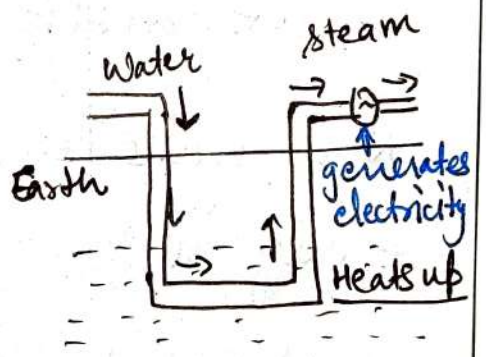

Fig. Use of Geothermal energy.

2. Can be tapped in remote locations
Eg. Ladakh, Puga Valley, et al.

3. Can be a cheaper source of electricity
→ water is reused, reduces wastage.

4. Carbon free in nature, thus reduces the greenhouse gas emissions.

Still it has not been adopted on a wide scale, Reasons:

1. Heavy upfront investment cost for energy generation infra.
   → Remote locations are not developed so cost-benefit ratio is not viable.
2. Not available readily at all locations
   → only in few areas such as Ladakh, Son-Narmada-Tapi Region, Sohna region in Haryana, etc.
3. R&D is required for enhance efficiency and creation of energy storage infra.

Recent steps have been taken such as creation of energy storage system in Ladakh to effectively use geothermal energy.

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Q.3. While WTO seeks elimination of subsidies that contribute to IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing, there are multiple concerns around it. Discuss while highlighting India's stand on the issue.

WTO, as an international trade body, aims to eliminate subsidies related to informal fishing sector.

Reasons
- highly skewed against formal industry
- Unsustainable practices such as bottom trawling
- issue of crossborder & unscientific fishing practices.

Still, it has attracted various concerns. India has been demanding a transition period citing sovereign issues. These are discussed as follows:

I. Socio-Political Issues:

1. Fisheries is subsistence activity of

a large number of communities and their survival depends on it.

2. Issue of poverty and illiteracy poses challenge to formalization.

II. Economic

3. The proposed changes would require huge investments on part of these communities, raising sustainability concerns.

4. Subsidies in other forms are provided by countries such as China, USA, Canada that make the international trade highly skewed.

Issues of developing nations must be addressed while the fishermen communities be educated regarding modern practices for amicable solution.

Q.4. There is a view that current agricultural policies in India are baised against rainfed agriculture. comment. Also, identify government imitatives in this regard.

Roughly 56% of India's agriculture is rainfed. This highlights the vulnerability of agriculture to government policies in this regard.

Policies biased against rainfed agriculture

1. Excessive subsidies for extraction of groundwater such as free electricity to farms, solar pumps under PM-KUSUM.
2. Open-ended procurement via MSP of rice & wheat (which are not usually rainfed). Whereas coarse grains such as barley, maize (which are rainfed) are neglected in procurement.

3. Lack of R&D in rainfed agriculture.

Government Initiatives

1. Recent push for crop diversification towards lentils, coarse grains.
Eg. Haryana's Mera Pani Meri Virasat Scheme

2. Decreasing the dependence on rainfed practices via PM KVY - Har Khet Ko Pani, Per Drop More Crop, Accelarated Irrigation Benefit Scheme, etc.

3. Raising the income of farmers to undertake upgradation programmes. Eg. PM KISAN yojana.

Efforts must be taken to deepen the sustainable irrigation methods such as Drip, Sprinklers, etc. for effective use of water.

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Q.5. Enumerate the major causes behind marine heatwaves. Also discuss their impact on the ocean ecosystem.

Marine Heatwaves (MHWs) occur when ocean temperatures are warm for an extended period of time. This was seen recently in western Australian region.

Causes

1. Warm Ocean Currents that can disturb the temperature of ocean ecosystems.
2. Mixing of warm air with water to extend heat transfer. Eg. Interaction between heat dome effect & water bodies.
3. Prolonged El-Nino phenomena, especially in Pacific region.

4. Climate Change and increase in ocean temperatures.

Impact on Ocean Ecosystem

1. Higher temperature would lead to higher evaporation, and thereby higher salinity.
→ would change ocean ecosystem.

2. May result into killing of oceanic flora & fauna, threatening biodiversity.
Eg. May result into bleaching & killing of corals, as seen in Great Barrier Reef of Australia

3. would lead to increased ocean acidification and subsequent damages.
→ lowering of Carbon Compensation Depth.

IPCC's 5th report highlighted adverse impact of Climate Change into increasing incidences of MHWs.

Q.6. Aseismic structure are touted as a viable solution to combat earthquack destruction. In this context, highlight the need of a National Program on seismic Retrofitting of Buildings and structures in India.

Earthquakes are natural phenomena that pose threat to human infrastructure & life via seismicity.

Benefits of Aseismic structures

- Earthquake resistant buildings, bridges, etc.
- Safeguarding of infra to protect capital investments
- Provide refuge during seismic events to protect human lives.

Need of National Program on seismic Retrofitting :

1. Retrofitting would upgrade existing

infra to become earthquake resilient.

2. India has high vulnerability zones (II, III, IV & V) posing risk to dense population. This would allow to enhance capacity of urban areas.

3. In line with international initiatives such as CDRI (Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure)
→ Put India as a global leader in relevant technologies.

4. Enhance community preparedness to mitigate impending disasters.

5. Upgrade capability of Indian industry for responsible construction.

Adoption of aseismic structures thus would allow to safeguard human lives and enhance disaster preparedness.

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Q.7 Despite the risk associated with cryptoassetes, their underlying advantages should not be overlooked. Discuss.

Cryptoassets is a digital asset that imbibes cryptography, blockchain technology. It includes cryptocurrencies, blockchain softwares, etc.

Risks associated

- Intangible nature and no physical value
- Not regulated by any central agency Eg - RBI
- Possibility of use for money laundering, terror funding, etc.
- High vulnerability of cyber frauds leading to loss of assets & wealth

Despite these risks, there are multiple advantages to cryptoassets:

1. High return : an investments providing

possibility of generation of wealth.
Eg. Bitcoin valued $1 in 2008 and is now ~$50,000 in 2021.

2. Allows for decentralisation of assets and provides diversification of risks. Eg. Use of peer-to-peer network for ledger tracking.

3. safeguard Intellectual properties and realise better values.
Eg. Non-fungible Tokens can allow better profits from tribal arts.

4. Security can be enhanced if regulated with proper legislative backing.

Cryptoassets hold revolutionary technology to enhance wealth generation in the future in a decentralised way. It must be regulated for desired benefits.

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Q.8 Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR and AR) have massive innovation potential across a wide range of industries and research fields in India. Discuss.

VR & AR are next-gen technologies that augment multiple avenues for R&D.

Virtual Reality (VR)	Augmented Reality (AR)
Requires use of a headset to experience a virtual landscape of created possibilities. Eg. Watching movies to experience atmosphere of Mars.	Creates digital landscape via use of camera, phones, holograms to integrate landscape with real life world. Eg. Used in Pokemon-Go game.

[Potential of VR]

1. To test newer scientific technologies in R&D in a virtual format.
→ reduce cost of creating life-like

models. Eg. Creation of virtual cars instead of clay models in automobile industry.

2. Entertainment Industry can benefit from newer experiences via movies, etc.

3. Defence Industry can benefit by testing of newer technologies.

Potential of AR

1. Help in creating a digital presence for better networking. Eg. Use of Metaverse (from facebook) like tech in India can revolutionize the telecom industry.

2. AR can allow research in IT industry to provide better insights in SaaS fields (Software as a Service).

3. Can allow better visualization of Artificial Intelligence and its benefits.

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Q.9. Discuss the Role and functions of Narcotics control Bureau (NCB) and examine whether NDPS Act, 1985 needs to be remodelled.

Narcotic control Bureau (NCB) acts as a premier agency to investigate crime against drugs & narcotics.

Role and Functions :

1. To create deterrence against drug menace and drug peddling.
2. Act as a centre of excellence to fight the crime of drug syndicates.
3. To act as storehouse of information for habitual offenders
4. Investigate drug trafficking and related issue of money laundering.

However, NCB has faced problems in recent times relating to lack of

Coordination with other agencies, excessive political control, etc.

Need for Remodelling of NDPS Act 1985

1. Rigorous punishment is provided even for smaller possessions of drugs
   → This has led to increased corruption and failed to act as credible deterrent
   → Even used to settle political scores.
2. Dependence on rehabilitation measures is low as it focuses more on the punishment part (treats as a law & order problem)
3. Creates roadblocks in medical usage of certain drugs.

Recently, Parliament passed NDPS (Amendment) Bill 2021 to address these issues for better application of act.

Q.10. Recent events have raised concerns around the issue of surveillance in India. Do you think surveillance is a necessary evil to tackle crime and terror? Discuss the various arguments on the issue.

Surveillance refers to use of intelligence measures by the state to keep a check on belligerent activities that are harmful for the nation.

Surveillance : a necessary evil

1. India faces plethora of internal threat including extremism, secessionism, sleeper cells, etc.
2. Recent cases of espionage in the age of digital communication have been on the rise. Eg. leak of documents related to Tejas MK1 from Nashik facility.
3. To deter & pre-empt the threats that post danger to national security,

sovereignty, public order, etc.

Possibilities of Misuse

1. can be used to settle political scores by unethical use.
2. May go against fundamental rights of privacy (Article 21) and freedom of speech & expression (Article 19(1)(a))
3. May turn India into a surveillance state. Eg. use of Pegasus software.
4. May alter relations with strategic partners, as in case of Edward Snowden case in USA.

Kautilya in Arthashastra highlighted spy network & its utility to ensure public safety. Ethical surveillance with overwatch is the key to regulate the affairs.

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Q.11. The decision to grow a particular crop by a farmer is affected by various factors other than the yield of a crop. Discuss this statement and assess the need for bringing a change in the cropping pattern in India.

Production in India is highly shewed towards Rice & wheat. The fact that water scarce regions of Punjab & Haryana grow these water-intensive crops highlight other factors affecting decision to grow a crop.

Other Factors

1. Availability of seeds, especially the GM varieties. After green revolution, only a few crops have GM seeds.
2. Irrigation methods such as tank, groundwater tubewells, etc. that influence availability of water.

Eg. Haryana's Karnal region grows rice in large quantity with use of groundwater.

3. Government Policies

3.1 Procurement such as MSP policy gives financial security to farmers

3.2 laws & legislations owing to favourability of crops.

Eg. Haryana's Mera Pani Meri Virasat scheme is promoting coarse grains.

4. Market & selling options also influence choice of crop.

Need for change in cropping pattern

1. 56% of agriculture in India is rainfed (as per NITI Aayog). This highlights the vulnerability of farmers & need for crop diversification.

2. Enhance profits and diversification of risk for better price discovery.
→ Avoid distress selling due to price fall in harvest season.

3. To allow natural replenishment of soil and decrease dependence on fertilizers. Eg. Pulses have nitrogen fixation ability.

India's agricultural setup needs to move away from "selling what is produced" to "producing what is sold". This shall allow achieving aim of Doubling of Farmers' Income by 2022.

Q.12. Identifying the Importance of livestock in the Indian agricultural economy, enumerate the step taken by the government in this regard. Also, discuss the potential impact of climate change on the livestock sector.

Livestock refers to integration of animals in agricultural practices for better productivity.

Importance of livestock in India's agriculture

- Contributes 25% to agricultural GDP
- Help in saving farm labour and thereby increasing efficiency
- Helps in natural manure input and in organic farming → reduce fertilizer input cost
- India has highest no. of bovines & 2nd highest cattles → tapping economies of scale

Owing to this importance, Government has taken various steps

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to boost the sector :

1. National Livestock Mission
   → to improve productivity of livestock
   → to enhance breeds based on international standards
2. Enhanced quality of livestock feed to better nutrient availability
3. Access to cheaper credit via inclusion in Kisan Credit Card Scheme
4. setting up veterinary care centres and improving availability of doctors
5. National Animal Disease Control Program to decrease burden of diseases and improve health, boosting profits.
6. Cooperative push to Dairy and allied sectors.

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Impact of Climate Change

1. Global warming & decreased availability of water would affect natural health of animals.
2. Increased forest fires would decrease availability of grazing grounds, threatening food security.
3. Spreading of newer diseases such as Anthrax, Blue Tongue disease, etc.
4. loss of biodiversity would lead to decrease in forage, etc. Eg. Threat to honey bees due to loss of nectar.

Effective care of livestock must thus be kept so as to ensure the aim of Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022 is achieved.

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Q.13. It has been argued by some economist that supply creates its own demand. In this context, discuss the merits and demerits of reliance on investment in infrastructure to boost the Indian economy.

Infrastructure are those capital assets that allow further business activities, such as buildings, roads, etc. It is propounded by World Bank that 1% increase in infrastructural stock leads to subsequent ~1% increase in GDP.

Thus the notion that supply creates its own demand holds true in infrastructural sense. Investment in infra to boost Indian Economy has its own merits and demerits, as discussed:

Merits

1. Increases capital assets and leads to productive use of public money.

2. Helps in boosting subsequent economic activities.

Eg. ① Creation of National Highways connect cities & other areas, boosting trade. Roadside eateries come up providing opportunity to earn for locals.

② SEZ allow income through exports and enhance local production.

3. Creates employment at all levels and helps tap the demographic dividend.

4. Creation of business parks led to growth of IT Industry in India.

Eg. In Pune, Bangalore, Gurugram, etc.

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Demerits

1. Funds to be provided for subsidies may be diverted.
   → Ineffective use may lead to increase in corruption.
2. May increase inequalities owing to differential employment opportunities.
   → As seen post 1991 LPG reforms.
3. May lead to unsustainable development.
   Eg. Greenhouse gas emissions from cement industry.

Equitable development of infrastructure must be ensured to allow benefits to all sections of population. India's Mission Gatishakti aims to invest 1 lakh crore to boost Indian Economy.

Q.14 Innovations emerge not just as an opportunity but also as pre-condition to assure the sustainability of food production. Analyse the statement in context of food processing sector in India.

Food Processing sector is one of the labour intensive sectors holding great relevance for India. It is estimated that ~40% of food in India is wasted on an annual basis.

Importance of Innovation in Food Production

1. To reduce the food wastage and ensure better usage of produce.
   Eg. Making of Tomato Puree from Tomato can reduce its wastage.
2. To ensure value addition in agricultural sector and overall GDP.

→ It will allow better profits to farmers

→ Avoid distress selling due to unavailable farm gate infra.

→ Increase share of agriculture in GDP from present 16%.

3. Possibilities of exports to foreign markets.

→ India is among Top 5 producers in most agricultural commodities.

→ Model of France to produce wine from Grapes can be replicated.

→ Boost employment scenario in India

4. Ensure sustainability in the sector

→ by shifting to market-based production and infusing financial prudence

→ Decrease the "virtual water export"

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leading to water scarcity

→ Decrease Methane emissions as in case of Gangetic region.

Recently introduced PLI Scheme in this sector aims to boost innovation & production in the country. This would help in upgradation of whole agricultural ecosystem.

Q.15 The factors contributing the unemployment in India are not merly a result of the structural Issue related to the Indian economy. Discuss also, highlight the measures taken to adress the problem of unemployment in recent times.

India witnessed ~7% rate of unemployment in 2021. Unemployment is a situation when job seekers are not able to find a suitable job matching their skills.

Factors for Unemployment in India

I. Structural :

1. Owing to bottlenecks in the economy.
2. Government (govt.) schemes leading to inefficiencies.
3. Eg. Industry - academia disconnect based on skills required, etc.

II. Seasonal factors

4. Indian economy is dependent on Monsoon & agricultural productivity
→ Agriculture employs ~45% of labour.

5. Recession - Growth cycle of business
Eg. High unemployment post 2008 crises.

III. Socio - Political factors

6. Prohibitions cast on women
- Glass ceiling in jobs
- Pink - collared nature Eg. Receptionists, Nurses, etc.
- Threat to safety at workplace
- Patriarchal mindset not allowing jobs for women.

7. Lack of skill : ~45% of graduates are unemployable (Aspiring Minds Report)

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Measures taken by Govt.

1. Push for Skill Development via schemes such as PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, SANKALP, UDAAN, etc.

2. Push for job creation via entrepreneurship & start up via schemes such as Start up India, MUDRA Yojana, Atal Innovation Mission, PM SVanidhi, etc.

3. Push for domestic production via "make in India" & "PLI Scheme".

→ Focus on labour intensive sectors such as food processing (Mega foodParks)

55% of India's population is below 25 years of age. This demographic dividend holds the key for India's development story.

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Q.16. Highlighting the major announcements made by India in the recently concluded COP26, examine India's capabilities in achieving net zero emissions by 2070.

Recently concluded COP 26 Glasgow summit saw India upgrading its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and stepping up the fight against Climate Change.

Net zero Emissions by 2070

Reduce carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes from now onwards till 2030.

Renewed Targets

500 GW of renewable energy generation capacity by 2030

50% of energy requirements to be met by renewable energy by 2030

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These goals are indeed ambitious and it would require major efforts to achieve them.

India's capabilities in achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2030

1. India needs to increase its renewable generation capacity. Present goal of 175GW by 2022 (addition in capacity) is still unachieved.

2. Huge public & private investment is required to tap the resources
   → It is a good thing that India is a tropical country & blessed with resources such as solar energy.

3. R&D is required to upgrade the technological interventions. Eg. Increase

in efficiency in solar cells.

4. Need to tap diverse sources including Geothermal energy, run of the river projects (Eg. Kishanganga Project), wind energy, tidal energy in Gulf of Cambay, etc.

5. Recently introduced National Hydrogen Mission coupled with private sector's "India H_2 Alliance" would go a long way in production of Green Hydrogen.

Achievement of various goals such as Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030 (and Bonn Challenge) would allow India to meet its objectives & emerge as responsible country in fight against climate change.

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Q.17. While geography plays a definite role in the recurring disasters in western Ghats, it is the human intervention that has exacerbated them. Discuss Also, suggest measures to protect western Ghats from these frequent disasters.

Western Ghats region is one of the most bio-diverse region in India. It has recently witnessed disasters such as landslides in Kerala, etc.

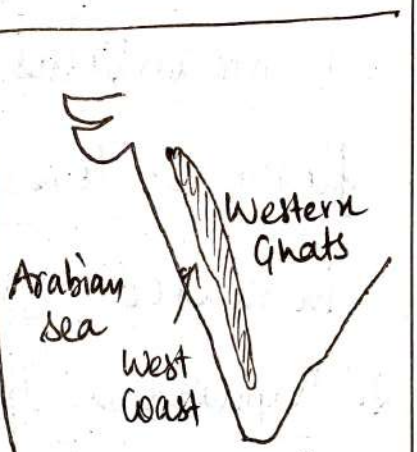

Fig. Western Region of India

Role of Geography

→ Sudden rise in elevation of Western Ghats leading to steep slopes
↓
lead to frequent landslides

↓
Rugged terrain leading to coastal floods and sand erosion at beaches.

However, it is the human activities that have exacebated them

1. Encroachments in windward side of mountains. This leads to loss of flora & forest cover leading to increased landslides. Eg. Kerala 2020
2. Haphazard urbanization as in case of Mumbai has led to flash floods and floods during monsoon high tides.
3. Unscientific hydroelectric / storage projects have been theorized as cause for recent earthquake swarms

Eg. in Palghar region.

Measures as suggested by Gadgil Committee are relevant to

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protect Western Ghats from disasters:

1. No new unplanned construction in the Eco-sensitive zones to be allowed
2. A bottom up approach to planning to integrate environment in local plans should be made mandatory.
3. No major hydro-storage projects to be allowed in the region.
4. Complete ban on mining, quarrying & sand extraction in eco-sensitive areas.

Strictly following the Coastal Regulation Zones and other provisions is necessary to preserve Western Ghats region from ~~ino~~ inundation by disasters.

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Q.18 The IPR regime in India is mired by inadequate protection and ineffective implementation. In this context, discuss how the IPR regime can be made more robust and effective.

IPR regime in India generally follows the "process patent" instead of "product patent". It is also marred by inadequate protection & ineffective implementation.

1. The process of filing patents is cumbersome and highly expensive.
→ This deters the filing process.

2. The infrastructure to protect & manage IPRs are not developed to ensure protection of IPR.
→ Cheap copying, black marketing of

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movies is a prime example.

3. The government machinery to check the misuse along with judicial proceedings are grossly inadequate & time consuming.

Following measures can be taken to strengthen IPR regime:

1. Single Window Filing Process to streamline the processes.
   → Decrease the time & funds spent.
2. Upgradation of enforcement infra for effective implementation of laws
3. strengthening the scientific R&D for technological upgradation
   → Investment in R&D to ~4% of GDP would allow accelarated Innovations.

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4. Venturing into new age technologies such as digital tech, Artificial Intelligence, et al would also allow boost the FDI inflows.

India maintains its TRIPS compliance to support the domestic industry. Further interventions related to modern advancements are warranted to give impetus to 21st century innovations in India.

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Q.19. What are the similarities and differences between the activities of terrorists and organised criminal group? Also elaborate upon the fact their linkage occur in both tactical and strategic ways.

Terrorists and Organized Criminal Groups (OCGs) are both threat to security of nation and public order.

Similarities

- Both work in an organised way
- Both pose a threat to peace & public stability.
- Both engage in illegal activities such as extortion, kidnappings, arms dealing.
- Both are non-state actors that also engage in money laundering to fund their activities

Differences

1. Terrorist groups aims for political extractions and usually act against

the state / government.

2. They also resort to lone wolf attacks, hijackings are motivated by extremist ideologies.

3. Eg. JeM, ISIS are terrorist groups.

(II) 4. OCGs are working on profit & financial motives and usually donot go against state's stability.

5. They usually work in group activities

6. Eg. D-Company in Mumbai, Human Trafficking groups, Drug Traffickers.

Their linkage usually occur in both tactical & strategic ways, as discussed:

1. Taliban engages in hijackings (IC 814: India) and cultivates poppy

being part of Golden Crescent to generate revenues.

2. Recently, it has been witnessed that weapons used by these groups are similar. Eg. Assault Rifles.

3. Groups such as Naxalites do blur the boundaries between terrorists & OCGs.

4. Both of these are connected in the way of enjoying patronage of sovereign adversaries. Eg. Pakistan supports JeM & Drug Peddlers in India.

India needs to upgrade its Intelligence & strategic deterrence to tackle the changing nature of these groups to maintain peace & stability.

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Q.20 There is a view that the 'civil society is emerging as the new frontier of war' in the 4th generation of warfare. Do you agree with this view? substantiate with logical arguments.

NSA Ajit Doval recently highlighted the role of civil society being used as new frontier of war. It includes general population, civil society groups (NGOs, student unions) among other stakeholders.

This notion is gaining ground as a part of 4th gen of warfare, as evident from following points:

1. Social Media: is being used to spread misinformation among public
→ Recently seen during the CAA-NRC

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protests in 2019.

→ Deepening the faultlines in society by exploiting the mindset of vulnerable sections.

2. Radicalisation: is promoted to act against the state's interests

Eg. ① ISIS gaining ground in south India

② Recently, a doctor from Bengaluru was caught who taught self-aid in case of injuries to ISIS cadres.

3. Utilizing sensitive issues of society to promote faultlines in society.

→ Recently motivated sacrilege attempts in Punjab are seen as giving impetus to Khalistani Movement

→ The bomb attack in Ludhiana in 2021 was suspected to be funded by ISI.

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4. It emnates from the theory that internal disturbances would tarnish the image of country in international sphere and act as a weapon to inflict damage.

Eg. Use of "toolkit" during the recent Farmers' Protest.

Such new developments of warfare must be closely looked at for ensuring credible deterrence.

Peace in civil society is crucial to maintain peace in country and national harmony.

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